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Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A method for creating a business process model, the method comprising the steps of:

defining an activity state, the activity state corresponding to a human-based or manual step;

identifying one or more performers for the activity state; and

designating a task[[.]] associated with the activity state[[.]] as reassignable to indicate that the task may be moved between performers of the activity state;

enabling reference data to be associated with the activity state;

identifying an additional task associated with the activity state to support concurrent activity states and applying the additional task to the activity state if the additional task is targeted to the activity state;

conditionally transitioning out of the activity state upon completion of the tasks; and

collecting reference data associated with the activity state.

2. (Original) A method as recited in claim 1 further comprising the step of defining reference data, the reference data being information that is to be made available to the performers of the activity state.

3. (Original) A method as recited in claim 2 wherein the reference data is made exclusively available to the performers of the activity state.

4. (Original) A method as recited in claim 2 wherein the reference data is also made available to performers of a second activity state.

5. (Canceled).

6. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 1 wherein the business process model is created using Uniform Modeling Language constructs.

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7. (Currently Amended) A method for providing a business process management system, the method comprising the steps of:
- receiving an event;
 - causing a business process object to transition to an activity state corresponding to the event, wherein the activity state includes a data structure that comprises business process object reference data;
 - identifying one or more performers for the activity state;
 - creating a task for each performer, the task designated as reassignable to indicate that the task may be transferred between performers of the activity state and further designated with a time limit indicating a deadline for completion of the task,
 - applying the task to the activity state if the task is targeted to the activity state;
 - completing the task, wherein any changes made to the business process reference data during completion of the task are collected; and
 - updating the business process object reference data to incorporate any changes that were made during execution of the activity state.

8. (Currently Amended) A method as recited in claim 7 wherein if the allotted time period limit to complete a task expires the business process object transitions from the activity state.

9. (Original) A method as recited in claim 7 further comprising the steps of providing each performer with reference data for the activity state.

10. (Original) A method as recited in claim 9 wherein the reference data is made exclusively available to the performers of the activity state.

11. (Previously Presented) A method as recited in claim 10 wherein the reference data is also made available to the performers of a second activity state.

12. (Canceled).

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13. (Previously Presented) A method as recited in claim 7 further comprising the step of conditionally selecting a transition out of the activity state based on the changed reference data.

14. (Currently Amended) A method as recited in claim 7, further comprising the steps of:

receiving a second event; and
ensuring that the events are applied to the correct activity state by applying the second event to the activity state only if the second event is targeted to the activity state.

15. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in ~~claim 12~~ claim 7, further comprising:

selecting reference data changed by the at least one performer and merging it with the associated business process object.

16. (Currently Amended) A method for creating a business process model, the method comprising the steps of:

defining state, the state corresponding to either an automated step or a human-based step;

if the state is defined as an automated step, performing the activity to be achieved in the state through the use of an application program to complete the step,

performing an additional activity to be achieved in the state if the additional activity is targeted to the state, wherein the targeting of the additional activity comprises at least one of naming a corresponding concurrent activity state and specifying an activity parameter; and

if the state is defined as a human based step, modeling the state using an activity state, wherein one or more performers are employed to complete the step.

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17. (Currently Amended) A method of providing an automated business process model in combination with human based events, the method comprising the steps of:
- receiving an event;
 - causing a business process object to transition to an activity state corresponding to the human based event;
 - identifying one or more performers for the human based event; and
 - creating a task for each performer, wherein each performer can trigger additional events as a result of task operation, as needed; and
 - performing an additional task to be achieved in the activity state if the additional task is targeted to the state.

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